

Hampton "Smokehouse"  
535 Hampton Lane  
East of Hampton Mansion  
Hampton National Historic Site  
Towson  
Baltimore County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-T

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMPTON "SMOKEHOUSE"

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, east of Hampton Mansion,  
Hampton National Historic Site, Towson,  
Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National  
Park Service

Present Use: Storage

Statement of  
Significance: This small structure, together with the adjacent  
two utility buildings, typifies the architectural  
sophistication of the early Hampton outbuildings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which the "Smokehouse" was built was acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely, for whom Hampton Mansion was built, died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and the Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and a house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it to the National Park Service in 1948 under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1800
  3. Architect: Unknown
  4. Construction information: It is assumed that the structure was built for a smokehouse.
  5. Alterations and additions: Prior to the restoration of the exterior by the National Park Service in 1968, the exterior clapboarding had been patched with modern siding and three windows, one on each north, east and south elevation, were cut into the original framing.
  6. Important old views: The "Smokehouse," though not named, is located on the 1843 plat of the estate. Pre-restoration photographs are in the report cited in Section C.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:  
See the historical data for Hampton Mansion (HABS No. MD-226-A).
- C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.

Within the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History files is Norman M. Souder's "Historic Structures Report, Part I, Architectural Data Section, Restoration of Three Outbuildings, Hampton National Historic Site," 1966. The report contains measured drawings and photographs.

2. Secondary and published sources: None known

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This small, one-story structure, with a pyramidal roof, has a doorway opening on the west (front) elevation. There are no windows.

2. Condition of the fabric: Restored in 1968, the structure is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building measures 10'-3" x 11'-5 3/4".
2. Foundations: The foundations, of rubble limestone masonry, rise eight to twelve inches above grade. The deteriorated foundations were restored in 1968.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The wood frame structure is sheathed in random width, 1/2" beaded clapboarding applied with wrought iron nails. Five inch wide corner boards have 3/4" beading. The building is painted a pale buff-pink.
4. Structural system: The "Smokehouse" is a post and beam structure with mortise and tenon and pegged joints.
5. Porches: None
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: A board and batten door is hung in the solid-stock door frame, which is trimmed with an ovolo backband.
  - b. Windows and shutters: The three later window openings were closed in 1968 though two dovetail holes, equally spaced at the center of the top clapboard of the north elevation, were retained.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: The pyramidal roof is covered with cedar shingles which are applied in a swirled manner at the hip ridges. The apex of the roof has a wood finial restoration.
  - b. Cornice and eaves: A simple boxed eave has a cyma recta crown moulding restoration and an ovolo bedmoulding. The original crown moulding had been replaced by a beveled board prior to 1968.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The structure has a single space.
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: The flooring is random width, tongue and groove pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceiling were plastered over sawn lath which still exists. Originally, the interior was unfinished.
5. Doorways and doors: None
6. Special decorative features: None
7. Hardware: At the entrance door a wood box lock, 8" long and 5½" wide, has a wrought iron keeper and a large brass key.
8. Mechanical equipment: None

- D. Site and Surroundings: The "Smokehouse" is the north structure of a group of three outbuildings east of Hampton Mansion, across from the brick paved kitchen courtyard. The three structures, which face the east elevation of the mansion, outline a formal composition with the lower, north and south structures flanking the higher central structure.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.